A

LETTER of LOVE

TO THE

Young Convinced

OF

That bleſſed Everlaſting *Way of Truth* and *Righteouſneſs*, now teſtified unto by the People of the Lord (call'd *Quakers*) of what *Sex*, *Age*, and Rank ſoever, in the Nations of *England*, *Ireland*, and *Scotland*, with the *Iſles* abroad; but more particularly thoſe of that great City of *London*, Spiritual Refreſhments, Holy courage, and Perfect Victory from God the Father, and the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, Amen.

My dearly beloved Friends and Brethen,

WHo have been called by the Eternal Spirit, unto an holy Calling, out of all the *Pleaſures*, *Vanities*, *Cuſtoms*, *Profits* and *Cares* of this periſhing pollured World, unto the pure Knowledge of the invinſible

and *Jesus in you the Hope of Glory*, which, *to as many as Believe and Obey, is Life Eternal*; and who for that little beginning of your Heavenly Journey, have met with *Reproach*, *Loss*, *Suffering*, and bitter *Tryals*; as one among you, and a Traveller with you, and therefore deeply sensible of your heavy Exercise, and bowed-down Spirits; I am constrain'd by the Eternal Unction, which we have received from on high to visit you in tender Bowels of Love unfained, beseeching you all in Gods most Holy Fear and Counsel to stand fast, and make your *Calling* and *Election* sure, which is not (my dearest Friends) to those external and shaddowy Services, *that could never perfect as concerning the Conscience*, in which the Worship of the *Jews* formerly, and the Nations now mostly do consist (carnal and beggarly Elements indeed) *but to that Law in the Heart, and Spirit manifested in the inward parts, which is the Substance of all.*

Here God is the Teacher of his People, and daily doth repleniſh his, with the immediate Vertue of his own Life; *For God Eternal is broken forth*, and by the mighty Power of his Spiritual Appearance is come, *to stain the Beauty of all the Inventions of Superstitious Men*, and thereby to summon all *Nations*, *Kindreds*, *Tongues*, and *People* to Judgment, for their Unrighteousness, that he alone may Reign King in the Heart, where the Devil has hitherto had Dominion, that true *Religion* may consist in *fearing him and working Righteousness*, by the powerful Operation of the Spirit of Jesus in them, which my dearly beloved Friends, with all singleness of Heart let us wait to be sensible of, that through the glorious rising of the pure Power of the Everlasting God, which is felt

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by all the Children of the Light, we may be enabled *to work out our great Salvation with Fear and Trembling*: For great and weighty is the Work of the Almighty in this his Day of Appearance, even to adopt us Sons and Daughters of the Most High, *by a Participation of his Divine Nature*, that as we have born the *Image of the Earthly, in Pride, Vanity, Wantonneſs, Avarice, and all manner of Impieties*, and that whilſt ſome of us were under great Profeſſions, and the continual feaſting on Viſible and Elementory things; ſo that now we may daily experience, through Obedience to that Pure *Light* and *Truth in the Inward Parts*, which leads to all *Meekneſs, Patience, and Purity*, the Quickning of the New Man, and ſenſibly witneſs *a bearing of the Heavenly Image*, that ſo we may come to feel *the Peace that paſſeth the Worlds Underſtanding*, and our poor, toſſed, tryed, and troubled Spirits in good meaſure fix't and anchor'd, in the immovable and holy State, over all the *Glories* and *Pollutions* of the World, that ſo nothing may ever prevail upon us, *to return into our former Ways, and Luſts, committed in our ignorance: For the over-flowing Scourge of the Almighty, will be upon the back of the Backſlider, and his ſwift Wrath will over-take the Heart that faints by the way; yea, better were it that ſuch had never been viſited, with the glorious Day-ſpring from on High, nor been convinced by the powerful Perſwaſions of the holy Spirit concerning the pure eternal Way of* TRUTH, *then afterwards to turn from it, and ſo trample the Blood of that moſt excellent Covenant under foot:* Yea, it will be the moſt dreadful of all Aggravations to their eternal Wo and Miſery.

And therefore, *My dear Friends*, let us not be diſcomforted under all our ſharp and heavy *Exerciſes*, whether from within or without, for this I am fully perſwaded of, that the ſame pure Principle of Light and Truth that hath appeared to give a certain diſcerning of our ſtates and conditions, and wrought a Convincement upon our Underſtandings, is able to give us that Succour and Support, if our minds be but ſeriouſly ſtay'd thereon, *as ſhall Sanctifie us throughout in Body, Soul, and Spirit*; and ſo preſerve us clean, to God over all.

And *My Dear Brethren*, Let us not enter into any Murmurings againſt the Lord, but be ſingly given up to know his Will and Work done in us, that we Periſh not, as thoſe of old: And in the tender Love of Jeſus Chriſt I earneſtly entreat you, Let us no more look back upon our ancient Paſtimes and Delights (but with holy Reſolution preſs on, preſs on) for they will ſteal away our precious Souls, beget new Deſire, raiſe the old Life, and finally, enſnare and pollute our Minds again; and what will be the end of ſuch Rebellion, but *Woes and Tribulations from the Hand of the Juſt God, World without end.* Neither let us enter into many Reaſonings with Oppoſers, *For that's the life Gods Power is revealed to ſlay with the two edged Sword*; for 'tis the Still, the Quiet, and the Righteous Life, which muſt be exalted over all. And this I ſay in a ſound underſtanding through the Mercies of the LORD, that *Deadneſs*, *Darkneſs*, and *Anguiſh of Spirit*, will be the end of ſuch Diſputing and Pragmatical Chriſtians, whoſe Religion conſiſts much more in *Words* than *Works*, *Confeſſing*, than *Forſakings*, and in their own *Will-performances* and *External Obſervations*, than in the Reformation

on and Converſion of their Souls to God: And finally, we our ſelves, who have known ſomething more of the Lord, may alſo reduce our good Conditions to an utter loſs, by ſeeking to comprehend dubious matters in our Underſtandings, and diſputing about them with every Oppoſer, the Devil in a way of Temptation ſhall preſent to us; which does no way advance our growth and encreaſe in the noble Principle of Truth.

And I beſeech you, *my dear Friends*, let not the fear of any external thing overcome the Holy Reſolutions we have made to follow the Lamb Chriſt Jeſus, through all the *Tribulations*, *Trials*, and *Temptations*, he and his Followers ever met withal. O Let us be valiant in Gods Cauſe on Earth, who have but a ſhort time and a few dayes to live.

And let the conſtancy of the World to the *Momentary Faſhions*, *Pleaſures*, and *Pollutions* of it, the more ardently ſtir us up to expreſs ours, for the honour of our God againſt them all, *who will reward us for whatſoever we bear, ſuffer*, or part withal on his account.

And therefore, I beſeech you, let neither *Father nor Mother*, *Siſter*, *nor Brother*, *Wife*, *nor Child*, *Houſe*, *nor Land*, *Liberties*, *nor life it ſelf*, deter us from our holy conſtancy; but as the faithfull *Ancients* did of old, *through Deſerts*, *Wilderneſſes*, *and ſolitary places*, *Goat-skins*, *and Sheep-skins*, *endure all torments*, *and bitter mockings*, *in this earthly Pilgrimage*, *for the Inheritance which is Everlaſting*.

So, *My dear Friends*, let us do, as we have them for our Example; however, let us be very carefull to ſhew all due reſpect to our Relations, not to be exalted, nor any wayes unruly, leſt there be juſt cauſe taken againſt us, and the bleſ-

sed Truth should suffer; but in the still, retired, holy, & patient life this pure eternal principle of light and Truth (as seriously and diligently waited on) certainly brings into, let us all dwell and abide, so shall we feel the powerfull operations of Gods Holy Spirit, to the more compleat redeeming of our exercised souls from under the dominion of sin, and to the giving all of us a clearer understanding, and sounder Judgement of those things that are to be parted from (as the *Pleasures*, *Cares* and *Customs* of the World, that stand in the faln nature, and onely nourish the same, but crucifie the self-denying Lord of Glory) and of the things of God, and his spiritual Kingdom which are to be adhered to, that in his pure wisdom, which is from above, we may be all kept and preserved, over all the snares and temptations of the *Adversary*, both on the right hand, and on the left.

And as One that is a Traveller in this Way, I even beseech, caution, and admonish you all in the holy awe of God, that you never forbear Meeting and Assembling of your selves, with the holy *Remnant*, amongst whom we first received our Blessed Convincement. O! forever, let us honour the Lord's Truth, and those who do sincerely profess the same! but more especially, such as were in Christ before us, for this is well-pleasing unto the Lord.

And let us beware of *Lightness*, *Jesting*, or a *careless mind*, which grieves the holy Spirit, *that stands ready to seal us unto the Day of our perfect Redemption*; but let us be *Grave*, *Weighty* and *Temperate*, keeping low in Body, as well as Minde, that in all things we may be Examples, and a sweet savour for the God who hath loved and called us.

And *My dear Friends*, let us keep in the simplicity of the the Cross of Jesus, even in plainness of Speech, and out of the Worlds flattering and deceitful Respects, for we are as well to

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be a croſs in our *Garbs, Gates, Dealings* and *Salutations*, [illegible] ligion and Worſhip, to this *vain Adulterated* and *Apoſtatiz'd Generation*; ſo in the pure meaſure of Truth that hath been manifeſted to every particular, and has convinced us of the unrighteouſneſs of the World, and the vanity and emptineſs of all its Profeſſions of *God, Chriſt*, and *Religion*; O let us ſtand and abide! that we may feel it to be our Refuge, and ſtrong Tower, when the Enemy ſhall approach, either by inward exerciſe, or outward bonds and ſufferings, which in all likelihood will ſuddenly overtake us, for the Trial of our moſt precious Faith; ſo ſhall we ſenſibly experience that heavenly Blood of cleanſing to ſtream therefrom, *which only can give remiſſion, clenſe from all Sin, and finally purge the Conſcience from dead Works to ſerve the Living, Everlaſting, Holy God, Almighty, Lord of Hoſts, King of Nations, and King of Saints. And whatſoever things are* true, *whatſoever things are* honeſt, *whatſoever things are* juſt, *whatſoever things are* pure, *whatſoever things are* lovely, *and whatſoever things are of* good report; *if there be any* Vertue; *if there be any* Praiſe, *O let us mind theſe things! and the God of Peace, that has by his Eternal quickning Power raiſed Jeſus in thouſands from the dead, bleſs, accompany, and preſerve us over all tryals, and tribulations, unto his eternal Habitations of Reſt, and Glory.*

Carberry, *in the County of* Cork, *the* 19*th of the* 12*th Moneth*, 1669. } Your Brother, and Fellow-Traveller in the Kingdom and Patience of Jeſus our Lord.

W. P.

THE END.